

YMCA SPROTT HOUSE

Canada's first transitional housing program for LGBTQ2S youth



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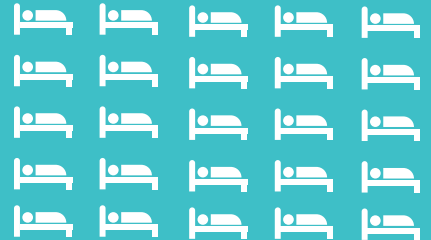
February 2016

YMCA SPROTT HOUSE OPENED as Canada's first transitional housing program designed specifically to meet the needs of LGBTQ2S youth.



Jointly funded by the **YMCA AND THE CITY OF TORONTO**

CAPACITY OF 25 BEDS



YMCA Sprrott House aims to create a safe and affirming space for LGBTQ2S youth, while supporting residents increase their independence and ability to find appropriate and affordable housing in the community.

FIRST YEAR EVALUATION OBJECTIVES:



To understand how population-based housing impacts LGBTQ2S youth.



To develop knowledge that improves programs and interventions for LGBTQ2S youth experiencing

METHOD:



Youth completed quantitative surveys & in-depth one-on-one interviews when entering and exiting the program. Interviews focused on health, housing, family life, employment, education, and identity.



Staff and management participated in one-on-one interviews focused on their perspectives and experiences.

IMPACT OF YMCA SPROTT HOUSE

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COMMUNITY



= FAMILY

YMCA Sprrott House was described as a community where young people could connect with both peers and staff and relate to them based on shared lived experiences. Younger participants viewed older peers and staff as role models. Some participants even described YMCA Sprrott House as a family.

"There's a community in the house, it's almost like a family. We stick up for each other. It's like I moved out of my mom's house into a better home with family that understand me. With people that don't disrespect me or make me feel horrible for the person I am."
— Alex, 22 years old

SAFETY

Youth were appreciative of the safe space that YMCA Sprrott House created for LGBTQ2S folks, especially compared to previous experiences in non-specialized housing programs.

Youths' perception of safety in daily life increased throughout their time at YMCA Sprrott House:

78%

youth answered positively at intake



100%

youth answered positively at exit

"Other programs I'd be really scared to go into because a lot of it's like 'male floor, female floor' or 'this is a female house'. So, it's really nice that you don't have to pretend to be cis to go somewhere like that and you wouldn't get hurt if people outed you. It's definitely safer."
— Adrian, 18 years old

Living in an LGBTQ2S household helped normalize gender and sexually-diverse identities, and provided a welcoming space for residents to explore their identities further. **Several youth reported that living at YMCA Sprrott House allowed them to feel safe in exploring their gender identities.**



Numerous youth reported an improved sense of wellbeing and mental health while living at Sprrott House.

AFTER 1 YEAR AT SPROTT HOUSE

Unemployment rate decreased from



85% to 69%

School enrollment rate increased from



39% to 56%